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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 184158 TOSEC 190124

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
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S E C R E T STATE 184158 TOSEC 190124

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEATS JIDDA 5114 ACTION SECSTATE 24 JUL 76

QUOTE S E C R E T JIDDA 5114

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AEMR, LE, US
SUBJECT: BEIRUT EVACUATION

REF: STATE 182825 (TOSEC 190083)

1. PRINCE FAHD TRANSMITS LATEST RECEIVED FROM PLO REP IN JIDDA. HIS EMISSARY AND I AGREE THAT THIS PLO COMMENT PROBABLY PREDATED YOUR MESSAGE OF THIS MORNING INDICATING INTENTION TO EVACUATE BY SEA NEXT TUESDAY MORNING. FAHD'S REMARKS FOLLOW HIS RECEIPT OF THAT MESSAGE FROM YOU.

BEGIN QUOTE

2. THE US AMBASSADOR IN BEIRUT INSISTS THAT CONVOY TAKE
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THE LAND ROUTE. PLO INFORMS HRH THAT COMMUNIST (SIC)

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FORCES MIGHT WISH TO INTERFERE WITH CONVOY AND SOME
CHRISTIANS MAY HAVE SAME INTENTION. PLO INFORMED HRH
THAT NOBODY CAN GUARANTEE THE SAFETY OF THE CONVOY IN THE
MOUNTAINS. PLO WILLING TO ACCEPT EVACUATION BY SEA OR BY AIR.
IF LATTER METHOD IS CHOSEN RED CROSS PLANES NOW ARRIVING AT
BEIRUT COULD BE USED TO EVACUATE PEOPLE. HRH ADVISES THAT
EVACUATION BY LAND SHOULD BE AVOIDED AND SHOULD BE BY SEA OR
AIR ROUTES.

3. THE PLO HAS NOTED ARTICLES IN THE WASHINGTON POST AND
CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR THAT HAD A VERY BAD EFFECT ON MODERATES
IN THE PLO. EXTREMISTS AND COMMUNISTS WANT TO COMPLICATE
MATTERS BY INVOLVING US IN CONFRONTATION SITUATION. HRH SUGGESTS
THAT USGOVT CONSIDER ISSUING STATEMENT EITHER THROUGH AMBASSADOR
IN BEIRUT OF DEPT OF STATE TO EFFECT USGOVT APPRECIATES ALL GOOD
EFFORTS EXERTED TO HELP HER EVACUATE HER CITIZENS. HRH FEELS
WORD OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO MODERATES WHICH WILL HELP THEM
COUNTER EXTREMIST INFLUENCE IS VERY DESIRABLE AT THIS POINT.
ASIDE FROM PLO EXTREMIST AND COMMUNIST DESIRE TO ENGAGE
U.S. IN CONFRONTATION HRH MAKES POINT THAT INTERNATIONAL
ZIONISM HAS EVERY INTEREST IN DEVELOPING BATTLEGROUND BETWEEN
U.S. AND PALESTINIANS. ALSO, HRH MAKES POINT THAT POWER AND
MIGHT ARE ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO UNITED STATES. IN LEBANON NOW
THERE IS CHAOS AND TENSION. PATIENCE IS REQUIRED TO AVOID
RECOURSE TO FORCE. IF UTILIZED, FORCE WILL RESULT IN MANY
CASUALTIES. EVEN PARTIAL OCCUPATION WILL NOT SOLVE THE ISSUE.

4. IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE
OBJECTIVE IS SAFE EVACUATION. HRH IS FOLLOWING THE SITUATION DAY
AND NIGHT. HE REGRETS THAT HE LACKS DIRECT MEANS OF CONTROLLING
OUTCOME BUT HE FEELS IT IN BEST INTEREST OF THE UNITED STATES TO
AVOID EXCITEMENT AND TO UTILIZE PATIENCE IN DEALING WITH THIS SEVERE
PROBLEM WHOSE RESULTS ONLY GOD CAN FORESEE. END QUOTE.
PORTER
UNQUOTE ROBINSON

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